



HBK Update, Friday 5 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to your Friday HBK update!

COVID-19 Update – message from Mr Cooke, Vice-Principal

Over the half term break, the Local Authority (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) has been designated as an **'Enhanced Response Area' (ERA)** due to the high levels of Covid-19 cases in the locality. This means that the government is working with the Local Authority to deploy extra support and resources to address the recent increase in Covid-19. As a school, we will continue to follow Local Authority guidelines, regularly review our mitigations and liaise with the LA, when needed, regarding our specific situation.

It is important that we continue to do all that we can in school to minimise the spread of Covid-19 within our community. Therefore, please could you continue to support your child(ren) with:

- **Twice weekly (minimum) Lateral Flow testing and submitting the result on the school system** (TestRegister.co.uk). On Monday and Thursday mornings, students automatically receive a link on their school email for the Test Register site
- If your child **displays any Covid-19 symptoms, then you immediately book them in for a PCR test** and keep them off school until you receive a negative result
- Sanitising their hands regularly throughout the day. We kindly request that all students carry a **small bottle of sanitiser** around with them in their pocket
- Wearing face masks inside (but not in classrooms). So whilst this mitigation is in place, we ask students to **bring a mask to school**, which is frequently washed or replaced to help maintain its effectiveness

Thank you for your ongoing support for all these measures.

Parents' Evenings 2021-22 – message from Mr Pendlebury, Assistant Principal

Below are the confirmed dates for this year's parents' evenings. All parents' evenings will be held online using the Parent Booking system that we used last year. We made the decision to keep parents' evenings online, not only as an added mitigation against Covid-19 but also due to the benefits we found from running them online and the generally very positive feedback from parents and staff. For example, parents told us they enjoyed not having to wait for appointments, not having to navigate Huntingdon traffic or search for parking at HBK. Details of how bookings can be made and how to use this system will be communicated approximately two weeks before each parents' evening. The confirmed dates for this year are:

Year 7 - Thursday 24th February

Year 8 - Wednesday 16th March

Year 9 - Tuesday 28th June

Year 10 - Wednesday 30th March

Year 11 - Thursday 13th January

Year 12 - Tuesday 26th April

Year 13 - Thursday 27th January

'This is Hinchingsbrooke' guides for parents – message from Ms Nightingale, Vice-Principal

At the start of term in September we ran a number of 'This is Hinchingsbrooke' sessions for students. The sessions outlined how we do things at Hinchingsbrooke and what our high expectations are. On the website there is now a brand new feature which outlines some of the key aspects of our work, such as how we teach, why we use knowledge organisers, the importance of literacy, for you as parents/carers to see. These guides are in video format and generally include a section on what you can do to support your child.

Please feel free to have a look at these at your leisure. Here is the link:

<https://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=HBK+Reboot+%2D+Parental+Videos&pid=932>

Safeguarding at HBK – message from Mr Heath, Assistant Principal and Ms Setchfield, Safeguarding Team



[Hinchingsbrooke School - Safeguarding](#)

Please see below information and guidance that has been shared with all students by their Head of Year - Health and Wellbeing Support. Please be advised that you can use The Sharp System to report any concerns you have.

www.hinchingbrookeschool.net

At Hinchingsbrooke we have a number of systems to ensure everyone in the Hinchingsbrooke Community is safe and supported in times of need. These include the training of staff and their ability to listen to all young people in school who require help or safeguarding advice. We have an online system called 'My Concern' that logs all concerns and My Concern is monitored by the Safeguarding Team throughout the school day.

Concerns that young people may have, for example, climate change, discrimination, drugs, mental health etc. are also regularly discussed in key lessons such as PSHCE and subject areas like RPE, History and Geography.

Students may also raise issues that concern them via our new 'Drop Boxes' which are situated in key areas of the school (Lower School, Middle School, SEND area, the Student Services building and in Hinchingsbrooke House for the Sixth Form). Students can write and drop a message with or without their contact details. The boxes are checked each week, read and actioned by the Safeguarding Team.

We also use an online reporting system called SHARP (Student Help Advice Reporting Page system) which can be found on the Safeguarding page of our website:

<https://www.hinchingbrookeschool.net/page/?title=Safeguarding&pid=490>

Anyone, young person or adult, can alert the Safeguarding Team to a concern about themselves, someone else or an issue not related to any particular person, for example, road safety. The report can be made anonymously or by giving personal details. The SHARP system is monitored daily by the Safeguarding Team and issues picked up immediately during the school day.

Thanks@HBK – a message from Mrs Tandy, Vice-Principal

As any of you who also work in a school know, times are tough at present! One of the things that keeps staff going through difficult times are kind messages from students, parents and other staff. Indeed, kind words and a 'thank you' have a much bigger impact on staff wellbeing than anything else, so I am asking whether you could all take a couple of minutes to send a message to thanks@hbk.acesmat.uk for us to pass on to our staff. This might be a message for the whole staff, or you might want to single out one or more staff members who you feel have gone over and above this term. We can add your name to the messages or keep it anonymous if you prefer. Thank you in advance for any words of encouragement and support you are able to send us!

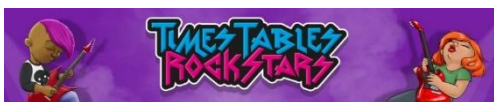
'Movember'

A number of HBK staff have this week embarked on the 'Movember' challenge, to raise money and awareness for the prevention of Prostate Cancer, Testicular Cancer and suicide. Mr Woodbury, our Second in charge of the History Department has kindly led on the initiative, and a good number of HBK students that he teaches came up to me just before half-term to encourage me to join the Movember staff team! Very clever, HBK students can be very persuasive! I'm in, and I'm already looking beardy and feeling itchy! – but it's for a good cause! Please consider donating a few pounds. Here is the link: <https://uk.movember.com/team/2402041>

'Year 7 Times Tables Rockstars competition results – message from Mrs Gratton, Head of Maths

All of Year 7 were challenged to participate in a Battle of the Bands Times Tables Rockstars competition in October. I am delighted to share that 7Si1 was the winning tutor group with almost twice as many points as the tutor group in second position! Here they are below with their certificate and prize.

Special mention must be made to the top three students in the year group who personally got more points than some tutor groups! Hard work and high standards – Well done everyone!



1 st place - Most Valuable player	2 nd place	3 rd place
JESSICA 12 000 points!	NATHAN 4 880 points	FINN 4 047 points

Cambridgeshire Constabulary Safer Schools Newsletter for November – message from the Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please see the November edition of our [Cambridgeshire Constabulary Safer Schools Newsletter](#), which we hope will offer support and advice to you regardless of the age of your child (ren). The subjects that we have covered in November's Newsletter are **Anti-Bullying Week: One Kind Word; Warning to Parents: Squid Game; Knife Crime Awareness week of action; Remain safe this firework night; Road Safety week: Be a road safety hero.**

As always, we would welcome any feedback, comments or suggestions on future newsletters. You can contact us at Schools&CYP@cambs.police.uk

Kind regards,

[Cambridgeshire Constabulary](#)

This week's blog

This week's blog focuses on Knowledge Organisers at HBK. The link is here:

<https://learningisthething.com/?p=294>

And here is a summary of the key points of the blog, if you would prefer a shorter read:

1. 'Knowledge Organiser' (KO) is the term we use for the paper documents that subject teachers give to students in Years 7-11 covering essential knowledge that we want them to remember for the long term
2. Students should store their KOs in their Knowledge Organiser Book (this is the coloured plastic folder they were given at the start of the school year)
3. Teachers typically set students homework to learn a section of the KO, by self-quizzing using the Look/Say/Cover/Write/Check/Repeat method (described fully in the blog): the Write part of the self-quizzing activity should be done in the Self-Quizzing Book (this is the exercise book that students were given at the start of the year; how to use the self-quizzing book is covered in the blog)
4. Teachers give students a quiz in a subsequent lesson, and this is designed to check how well the students have learned the section of the KO that was set for homework - just doing the quiz also promotes learning (this is called 'The Testing effect')

5. As with any homework set, teachers will pick up on students who have not done their self-quizzing homework, or who have done it but are still struggling with their class quizzes; not doing the self-quizzing will typically involve the students having to catch up, whereas struggling to do well on the quizzes will typically involve the teacher and student talking about what can be done to improve the memory of the key knowledge
6. Our great hope is that over time, the consistent use of Knowledge Organisers will improve all students' learning – they will know more which is, of course, a key purpose of going to school.

Wishing you all a great weekend.

Mark Patterson
Principal